(SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Mortality rate due to Tobacco-Related diseases

843. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while mortality rate attributable to IHD and other smoke and tobacco related diseases in the US and other developed countries is fast declining; it is increasing alarmingly in India;

(b) if so, what was the mortality rate due to tobacco-related diseases in India in 1981 and 1991 and 1995 and what is the break-up of this mortality between active and passive smokers and other users of tobacco; and

(c) whether despite the statutory warning on cigarette packs, the advertisement and publicity for cigarette, bidis and tobacco products is going on unabated?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Available studies indicate a declining trend in mortality rate attributable to tobacco related diseases in USA and European union countries. However, no reliable trend on the same is available for India.

(b) No reliable data is available, yearwise. However, it is estimated that about 8 lakh people die per year due to tobacco related diseases in the country.

(c) The present statutory warning has not brought about desired impact. Accordingly, it is proposed to enact a comprehensive legislation providing interalia for a statutory warning on all packages of tobacco and tobacco products in the form of more telling slogans. The slogans, size of the letters of the slogans and languages in which these will be printed on the packages will be notified by the Government from time to time.

Pay Scales of PSU Employees

844. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to rationalise the pay scales of the employees of each Public Sector Unit; and

(b) if so, the details of guidelines issued to the Central Public Sector Managements and also to the State PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) On 19.7.1995, detailed guidelines have been issued to all the Administrative Ministries/ Departments of the Govt. of India, Chief Executives of Central Public Sector Enterprises etc. regarding revision & rationalisation of the pay scales of the employees i.e. Board level Executives, below Board level Executives & non-unionised supervisors of the Central Public Sector Enterprises w.e.f. 1.1.92. The Central Govt. Public Sector Undertakings have been given flexibility to adopt the pay scales at Public Sector Enterprises level depending on their requirements.

Revision/rationalisatio of pay scales of State Public Sector Undertakings do not come under the purview of Central Govt.

Conversion of Guntur-Guntakkal line from metre gauge to broad gauge

845. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to sate:

(a) whether the work on the conversion of Metre Gauge in Guntur-Guntakal line to Broad Gauge is currently in progress;

(b) if so, by when the work is likely to be completed; and

(c) by when the Broad Gauge line is expected to be opened for traffic?